

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 SAJ-01 DHA-02 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6630

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: BUNDESTAG DEBATES POLISH AGREEMENTS

REF: BONN 2708

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE BUNDESTAG VOTED ON THE POLISH AGREEMENT FEBRUARY 19. AT THE CONCLUSION OF A TWELVE-HOUR DEBATE, 275 DEPUTIES VOTED FOR THE POLISH PENSION AGREEMENT AND 191 VOTED AGAINST. FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE CDU/CSU VOTED WITH THE COALITION PARTIES IN SUPPORT OF THE AGREEMENT. WHILE THE TONE OF THE DEBATE WAS ACRIMONIOUS AND SCHMIDT CONTINUES TO ATTACK THE OPPOSITION, NEITHER SIDE FORECLOSED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE APPROVED BY THE BUNDESRAT ON MARCH 12.

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1. THE BUNDESTAG APPROVED THE PENSION AGREEMENT WITH POLAND FEBRUARY 19 BY A VOTE OF 275 TO 191. FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE CDU/CSU, INCLUDING BARZEL, KIEP, VON WEIZSAEKER AND BLUMENFELD, DESERTED THEIR PARTIES' POSITION TO VOTE FOR THE AGREEMENT.

2. THE DEBATE STARTED AT NINE IN THE MORNING AND LASTED UNTIL NINE AT NIGHT. SOME SHARP EXCHANGES, REPORTED BELOW, TOOK PLACE BETWEEN LEADING GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS. MORE NOTEWORTHY, HOWEVER, WAS THE FACT THAT NEITHER SIDE FORECLOSED ANY OPTIONS WHICH REMAIN OPEN FOR COMPROMISE BEFORE THE CRUCIAL VOTE IN THE BUNDESRAT, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 12, TAKES PLACE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL IT CAN TO SECURE APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT. THIS STATEMENT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WIDESPREAD REPORTS (WHICH OUR FONOFF SOURCES DO NOT DENY) THAT GENSCHER AND THE POLISH AMBASSADOR ARE HOLDING A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO SEE IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO MEET THE OPPOSITION'S CONCERNS OVER THE NEED TO OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF EMIGRATION TO ALL ETHNIC GERMANS IN POLAND AS WELL AS THE FATE OF THOSE WHO REMAIN IN POLAND. ANOTHER SOURCE HAS REPORTED TO US THAT CONFIDENTIAL TALKS ARE TAKING PLACE IN WARSAW ON THESE TWO POINTS.

4. GENSCHER ALSO CLAIMED IN HIS ADDRESS THAT DEFEAT OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD RAISE DOUBTS IN THE WEST ABOUT THE FRG'S WILLINGNESS TO ACHIEVE A RECONCILIATION WITH POLAND.

5. THE OPPOSITION FOR ITS PART CONCENTRATED ITS ATTACK ON THE POINTS AGREED IN ITS LEADERSHIP MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17 (BONN 2708).

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6. CDU/CSU DEPUTY FRAKTION CHAIRMAN VON WEIZSAECKER MADE AN ELOQUENT SPEECH IN DEFENSE OF THOSE UNION DEPUTIES WHO SUPPORTED THE AGREEMENTS. WHILE CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR, HE SAID THAT THE AGREEMENTS MUST BE SUPPORTED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. HE CONCLUDED BY PLEADING THAT GERMAN-POLISH RECONCILIATION NOT BECOME A CAMPAIGN ISSUE IN THE BUNDESTAG ELECTIONS.

7. THE SCHMIDT-KOHL DUEL WAS ACRIMONIOUS ENOUGH TO KEEP EMOTIONS RUNNING HIGH. SCHMIDT ATTACKED KOHL'S LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND KOHL ACCUSED
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SCHMIDT OF UNETHICAL CONDUCT.

8. SCHMIDT MAY BE PLAYING A SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS GAME. HE HAS REFUSED TO TONE DOWN HIS ATTACKS AGAINST KOHL AND THE OPPOSITION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN POSSIBLE CDU SUPPORT IN THE BUNDESRAT. IN A FEBRUARY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE HE ONCE AGAIN LAMBASTED KOHL AND CO. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF HE WILL BE ABLE TO PROFIT FROM THESE TACTICS.

9. IT STILL REMAINS UNCLEAR IF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE APPROVED BY THE BUNDESRAT ON MARCH 12. ONE CDU

SUPPORTER OF THE AGREEMENTS TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER
FEBRUARY 20 THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WAS STILL HOPE THAT
THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE PASSED BY THE BUNDESRAT.
HILLENBRAND

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